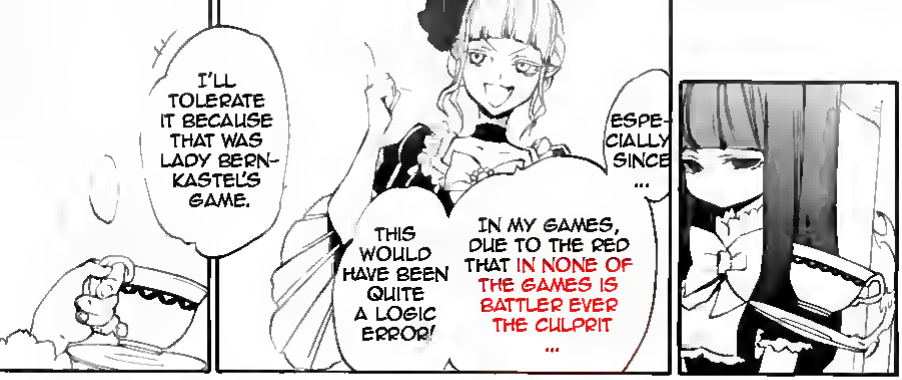
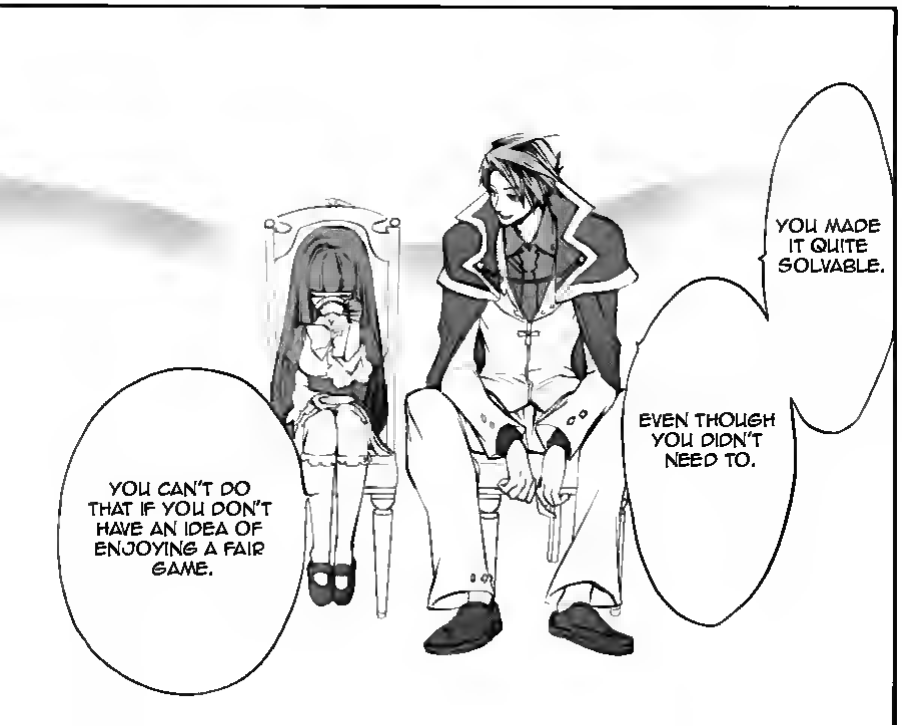
THE WINNER OF THE DUEL IS OUR LORD BATTLER!
BUT LADY BERN-KASTEL'S GAME WAS QUITE THE POWER-PIECE AS WELL!!

LET US TOAST TOWARDS BOTH THEIR EFFORTS!
EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE A TRY AT LADY BERNKASTEL'S GAME!
TO PLAY AROUND WITH THE MURDERS OF OUR FAMILY... THAT IS PREPOS-TEROUS!
IT IS SURPRISINGLY ENTERTAINING IF YOU NEATLY CUT IT DOWN INTO A LOGIC PUZZLE
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A HUGE TRAGEDY FOR US PIECES
LADY BERN-KASTEL.
YOUR GAME WAS TRULY FASCINATING.


I'LL TOLERATE IT BECAUSE THAT WAS LADY BERNKASTEL'S GAME.
THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE A LOGIC ERROR!
IN MY GAMES, DUE TO THE RED THAT IN NONE OF THE GAMES IS BATTLER EVER THE CULPRIT ...
ESPECIALLY SINCE ...

THANK YOU
.....
BUT AS A GAME IT WAS REALLY WELL DONE AND INTERESTING.

ANGE WOULD FLIP IF SHE SAW THAT.
UNBELIEVABLE! A SETTING WITH ME AND MY FOLKS AS THE CULPRITS!


YOU CAN'T DO THAT IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN IDEA OF ENJOYING A FAIR GAME.
EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T NEED TO.
YOU MADE IT QUITE SOLVABLE.

CHAPTER 15: THE LATE VISITOR (3)

I POSE THE QUES-TION AND CHAL-LENGE YOU.
A GAME YOU CAN WIN AGAINST ME.
THEN LET'S CHANGE ROLES FOR THE NEXT GAME...
YOU HAVE QUITE AMUSING IDEAS.
.....
WINNING OR LOSING ...
IT'S THE FAIR EXCHANGE THAT'S INTERESTING, RIGHT?!
YOU PLAY A GAME TO WIN, SO THAT SHOULD BE YOUR NUMBER ONE GOAL.
WHY WOULD YOU SET UP A GAME THAT YOU MIGHT LOSE...?
BUT A GAME YOU DEFINITELY WIN IS JUST BORING.
IT'S NOT EVEN A GAME.
IN A WAY IT'S LIKE ENJOYING COMMUNI-CATION.
THE RESULT BEING VICTORY IS ONLY A TREAT.

YOU LIVE IN A REALLY SAVAGE WORLD, DON'T YOU?
FOR ME IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S COMMUNI-CATION FOR YOU ...
YOU TOO ...
WERE THE SAME BEFORE YOU UNDERSTOOD BEATO'S GAME, RIGHT?!
AN ETERNAL GAME IS ETERNAL TORTURE.
DID YOU ALREADY ...
... COMPLETELY FORGET ABOUT THAT HARDSHIP...?

THAT'S WHY I AM ON NO SIDE, SINCE FURTHER STRIFE WILL BIRTH NOTHING.
I WAS FORCING ETERNAL TORTURE ON HER.
BUT IT WAS THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT SO.
... TRUE.
SO ALL THE ETERNAL TORTURE YOU ENDURED IS JUST WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE.
BUT THE ONES I ENDURED ARE NOT THAT CLEAR-CUT.
... PLEASE UNDER-STAND.

I KNOW NOTHING OF YOUR ORIGIN OR YOUR TORMENT...
BUT YOU CAN COME TO US ANY TIME.
WE WILL WELCOME YOU ...
AS A FRIEND.
I MIGHT HAVE LET YOU HAVE THE VICTORY SO FAR...
BUT DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
MY GAME IS FAR FROM OVER.
WHO MIGHT END UP WINNING I WONDER ...

BATTLER
...
?
YOU CAN STILL SMILE SO FOOLISHLY
IF YOU HONESTLY THINK THAT THIS LAST GAME WILL BE A SWEET EPILOGUE LIKE A MEADOW, I WILL INVITE YOU TO A TRULY FITTING FINAL GAME.

YOU FORGET TOO FAST ...
WHO YOU ENTRUSTED WITH THE KEY TO THE FINAL GAME ....

I HAVE TO HAND IT TO HER. SHE KNOWS HER WAY AROUND BLACK TEA.
THE STUFF OVER THERE WAS TOO SWEET TO DRINK.
YOU WERE HERE BEFORE, RIGHT?
THIS IS...
...IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, CHILD OF MAN.

FEATHE-
RINE...!
THE HONORABLE WITCH OF THEATER-GOING, DRAMA AND SPECTATORSHIP
FEATHERINE AUGUSTUS AURORA

DOES THAT INDICATE THAT YOUR GAME IS STILL ON-GOING?
I DID NOT THINK THAT YOU WOULD END INTO MY STUDY ONCE MORE.
IT'S GOING BUT NOT WELL.
THIS IS A REAL STOPPER OF A GAME.
ANGE
THE REASON I BROUGHT YOU TO AHAH ...
NO.
DO YOU WANT ME FOR A RECITAL AGAIN?
WHAT NOW ...?

IS TO SHOW YOU ...
THE WAY TOWARDS THE TRUTH OF THAT DAY.

FEATHERINE HAS...THE KEY FOR REACHING THE TRUTH IN HER HANDS?
I AM THE WITCH OF THEATER-GOING.
IN EXCHANGE FOR BEING ABLE TO OBSERVE AND KNOW EVERYTHING...
I DO NOT FIND MUCH PLEASURE IN INFLUENCING THE PLAYERS ON THE STAGE.
HEY.
IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN BATTLER'S BORING LITTLE SHOW OR MY SHOCKING, DESTINY SHAPING PLAY
WHICH ONE DO YOU PREFER?
ESPECIALLY AS A WITCH WHO CAN'T BEAR MORE THAN A MINUTE OF BOREDOM ...

...
WHA
...?
THE ONE HOLDING THE KEY FOR REACHING THE TRUTH ...
IS YOU, ANGE, RIGHT?!

THAT KEY
MY BROTHER GAVE IT TO ME AT THE START OF THE GAME...
BUT HE ONLY SAID THAT I WOULD KNOW HOW TO USE IT WHEN THE TIME WAS RIPE. NOTHING OF WHAT THE KEY IS FOR...
YOU ...
YOU KNOW THAT...?
WHAT I CAN DO IS ...
TELL YOU WHAT KEYHOLE THAT KEY MIGHT FIT INTO, OH CHILD OF MAN.

DON'T WANNA.
MY PRIEST-ESS! EXPLAIN!
GET OUT OF RETIRE-MENT.
YOU SHOULD INVOLVE YOUR-SELF ON THE STAGE A LITTLE MORE.
THIS KEY IS...
TELL ME!
WHAT IS THIS KEY FOR?
YOUR OWN DECISION GIVEN CORPOREAL SHAPE.
THIS GAME IS HEADING TOWARDS AN END WITH THE DECISION YOU DESIRE.
AND THIS ACT OF MAKING A DECISION TOOK FORM IN SHAPE OF A KEY.

MY DECISION ...
TOOK ...
FORM ...?
NO-THING.
HE ONLY ALLUDED TO A PROPER TIME COMING ...
NOBODY TOLD ANYTHIG ...
IN THE END IT WILL COME DOWN TO YOU STANDING IN FRONT OF TWO DOORS AND YOU WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHICH TO OPEN.
DIDN'T BATTLER TELL YOU AS MUCH?
BUT YOU ARE STARTING TO NOTICE AS WELL, ANGE?!
BATTLER PROBABLY WANTS TO HIGHLIGHT YOUR FREE WILL.

THAT THERE IS AN ANSWER THAT BATTLER WANTS YOU TO CHOOSE...?
"EVERYBODY IS IN HEAVEN, SMILING DOWN AND PROTECTING YOU."
"EVERYBODY HAD A WONDERFUL TIME AND THEN WE JUST VANISHED ON THAT DAY."
HE WAS TRYING TO FOOL ME OUT OF THE TRUTH WITH A DAYDREAM-LIKE STORY.
I HAVE ALWAYS... FELT IT.
"JUST TRY YOUR BEST ON YOUR OWN AND LIVE"...
"YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW ANYTHING, ANGE."

ANGE ...
BATTLER TOLD YOU THAT THE NEGATIVE CHARAC-TERISTICS OF YOUR FAMILY WERE AN OUTSIDE PERSPECTIVE, RIGHT?!
THAT'S A LIE.
WHAT A VILE WAY TO FOOL A CHILD! EVEN A CHILDREN'S SHOW USED TO HAVE A VILLAIN IN IT!
A SQUEAKY CLEAN GAME
OVER-FLOWING WITH DREAMS AND HOPE
A HAL-LOWEEN PARTY SO NICE THAT IT'S UNCANNY.
THE SIBLINGS BONDED IN AN OATH ...
KINZO BRIM-MING WITH LOVE ...
YOU HAVE BEEN WITNESS TO THAT FARCE OF A PLAY, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT HE ACTUALLY GUIDED YOU TOWARDS A CERTAIN PATH FROM THE START.
ON FIRST SIGHT, BATTLER MIGHT HAVE GIVEN YOU EQUAL CHOICES ...
IT WAS MY BROTHER PUSHING HIS IDEAS ON ME.

WAS IT ALL A LIE? WAS IT BEATO'S DECEPTION?
WHAT ABOUT THE WAY THEY WERE PORTRAYED IN BEATO'S GAMES BEFORE?
EVEN MORE IF HIS WORDS WERE TO BE TRUE ...
IMPOS-SIBLE.
LET'S SEE YOUR FAMILY AS THEY ARE. THEY'RE A GROUP WITH LOTS OF PROBLEMS.
WERE YOU NOT OSTRACIZED AND PERSECUTED AS THE DAUGHTER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT...
AND NOT TREATED AS THE BEREAVED FAMILY MEMBER OF THE VICTIMS OF AN EXPLOSION INCIDENT UNTIL TODAY?
EVERYTHING WIPED CLEAN, DOWN TO THE THING THAT SET THE FIGHT AMONG THEM ABLAZE.
NOTICED AS WELL, RIGHT? THAT THERE IS NOT EVEN THE EPITAPH ON THIS GAMEBOARD.
AND YOU ...

ALL THE STUFF THAT COULD BE IN THE WAY GOT REMOVED.
A PUPPET SHOW FULL OF CHILD'S PRETENSE IN ORDER TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE.
FOR BATTLER YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A LITTLE GIRL.
YOU'VE BEEN FOOLED, ANGE.
MY BROTHER IS...
...A COWARD.

ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE'D TELL ME ABOUT THAT DAY ...
HE CAST SMOKE AROUND IT WITH SWEET STORIES.
TRYING TO LURE ME AWAY FROM THE TRUTH.
FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE YOU COULD CALL IT COWARDICE ...
BUT REMEMBER.
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF AT THE START OF THIS GAME.
LIKE BEATO'S GAME ...
THIS GAME IS A BATTLE BETWEEN BATTLER AND YOURSELF.

...
EH
...
WHA
...?
IT WAS A FIGHT BETWEEN BEATO AND BATTLER BEFORE
THE GM BEATO INSISTED ON HER WITCH CULPRIT THEORY.
THE PLAYER BATTLER HAD TO DISPROVE IT
AND THIS TIME?
ANGE, THE GM AND THE PLAYER THIS TIME AROUND...
WHO
...
...IS WHO?
EH
...
THE GM
...
IS MY BROTHER
...
THE PLAYER
...
...
...
IS ME
...
SO
...
...WAS I MISTAKEN THIS WHOLE TIME?

MY BROTHER WAS NEVER PLANNING ON TELLING ME THE TRUTH.
IS THIS REALLY A GAME BETWEEN HIM, TRYING TO HIDE THE TRUTH OF THAT DAY ...
AND ME WHO IS ATTEMPTING TO UNCOVER IT... IS THAT IT?
SUR-PRISES ME
THAT YOU STEPPED UP THIS GAME WITHOUT UNDER-STANDING EVEN THAT ...

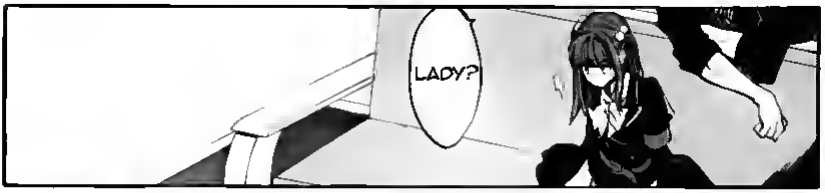
I WAS TOO SOFT
I WANT YOU TO TAKE IN EVERYTHING THAT I AM GOING TO TELL YOU.
IT'S ALRIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU...
I WAS OKAY WITH ...
BEING FOOLED BY HIM...
I WAS GOING ALONG WITH THIS GAME, JUST BECAUSE HE SAID HE'D TELL ME...
BUT THAT IS ...
NO DIFFERENT FROM HIM JUST NODDING AND AGREEING TO BEATO'S MAGIC THEORIES...!
.....

BATTLER IS QUITE SKILLED.
JUST LIKE HE WAS PULLED INTO THE GAME WITH BEATO WITHOUT KNOWING ...
YOU WERE PULLED IN AS WELL.
BUT THAT IS JUST AN OPENING MOVE TO HEIGHTEN YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING.
TO NOT TELL YOUR OPPONENT THE RULES, AND PUSHING THEM AROUND WITH DECEPTIONS, NOT TELLING LEFT FROM RIGHT, THAT'S JUST LOW.
THE WAY TO FIGHT AND THE MEANING OF THIS KEY...
YOU FINALLY NOTICED ...?
... YOU'RE RIGHT ....
MY BROTHER... HE WAS JUST GIVING HIS BEST IN THIS GAME... NOTHING MORE...

IF I CAN UNCOVER THE TRUTH OF THAT PAST WHICH HE HIDES, I'LL WIN.
THAT IS THE GAME.
I WILL NOT BE FOOLED ANY LONGER.
HE GAVE HIS BEST AND NOW I WILL DO THE SAME.
IF I AM FOOLED BY THIS CHILDISH PUPPET PLAY AND GET SENT BACK TO MY LONELY REALITY, HE WINS.
AND IN MY HAND I HAVE ...
... YES.
THIS GAME IS A BATTLE BETWEEN MY BROTHER AND ME.

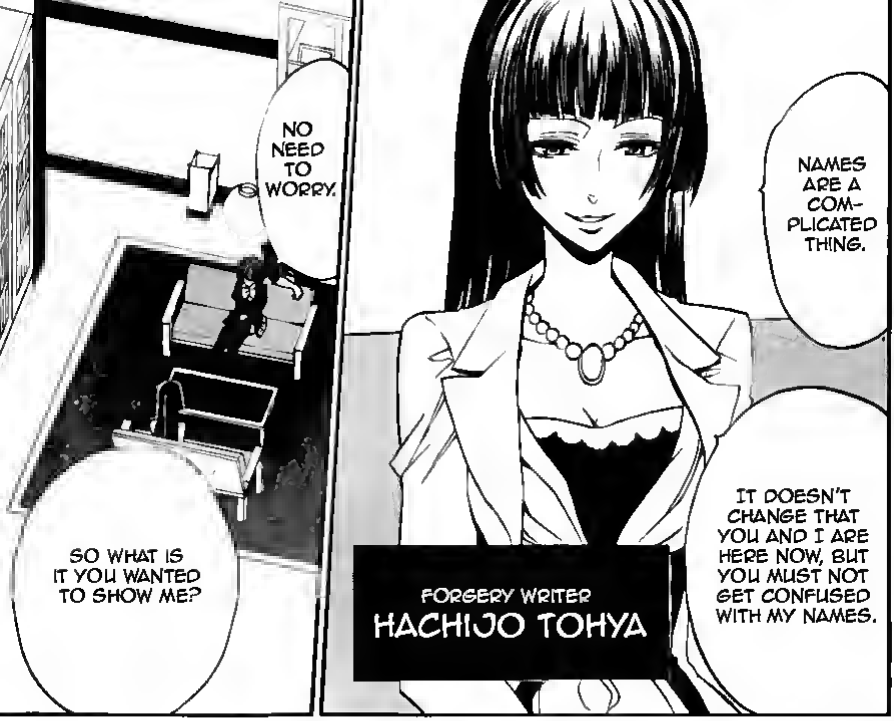
I HAVE TO ADMIT, THIS ANGE WILL BE A STORY MORE TO MY LIKING THAN ONE WHO JUST FOLLOWS BATTLER.
RIGHT?
VERY WELL.
TELL ME, FEATHE-RINE ...
WHAT IS THE KEYHOLE THAT LEADS TO THE TRUTH?
I WILL OPEN THE DOOR I WANT BY MY OWN WILL.
THE KEY TO ARRIVE AT THE TRUTH.

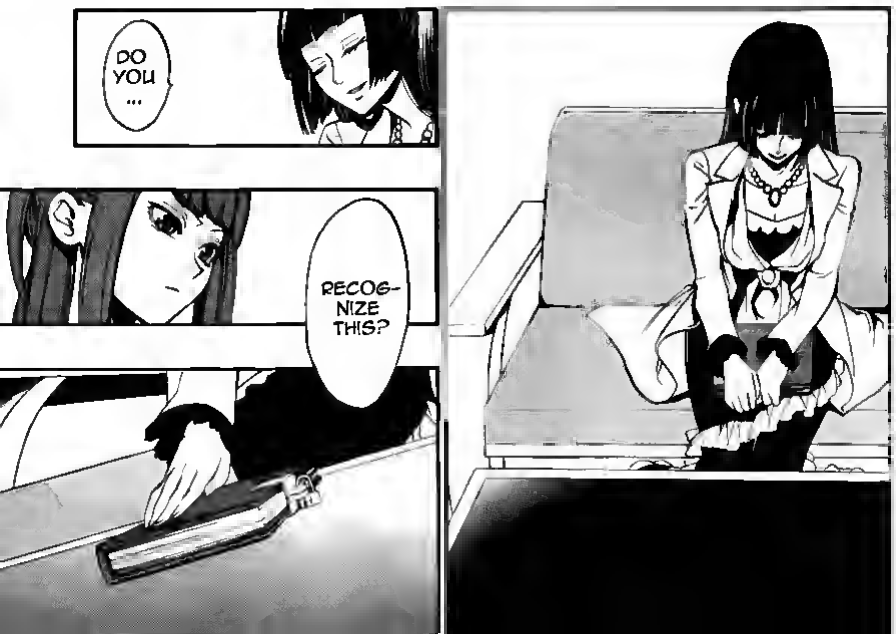
I WILL FETCH IT THEN.
WHAT...
SUD-DENLY
MY MIND GOES...
.....

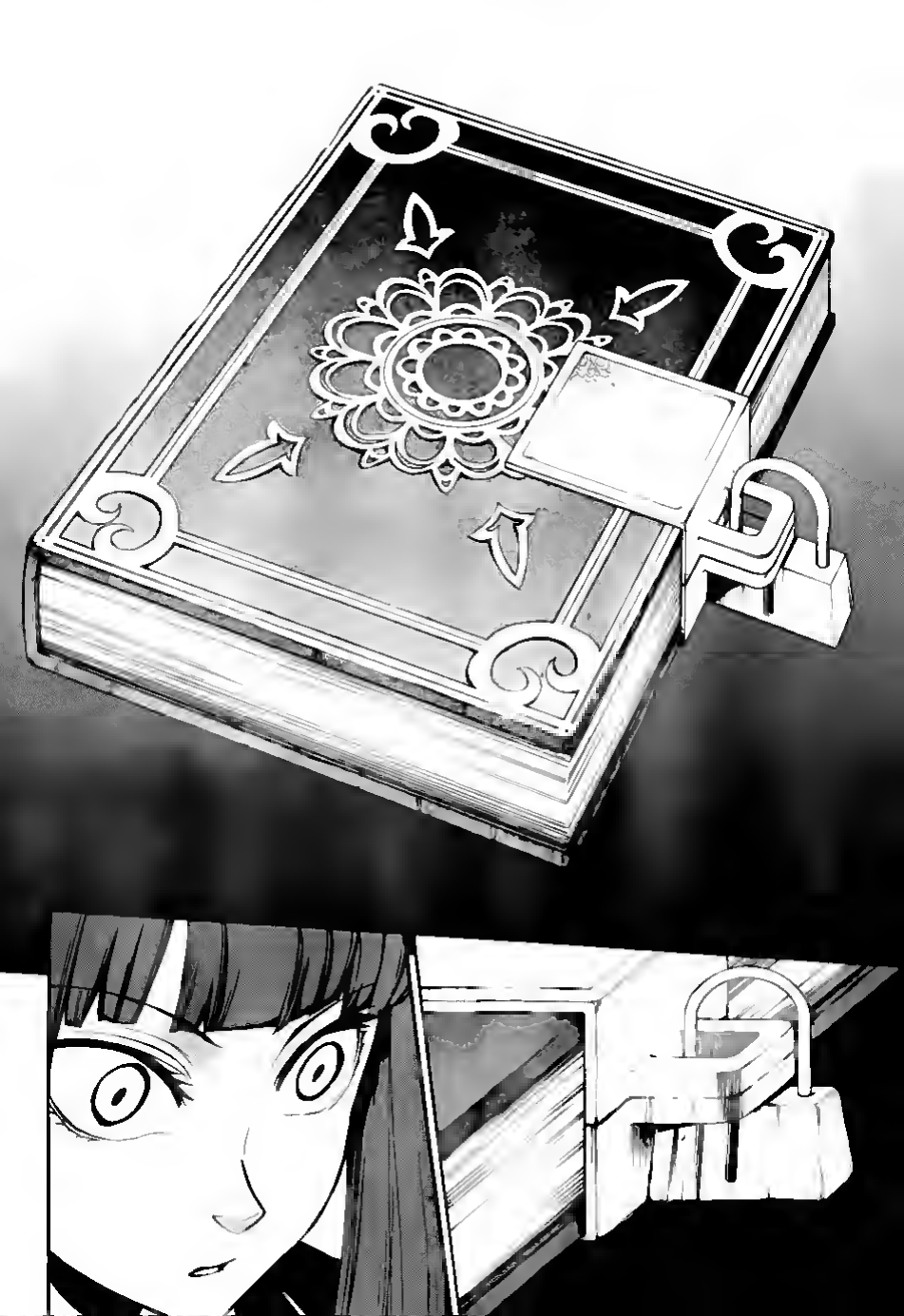

LADY?

WHERE ...
AMA-KUSA?!
ISN'T IT A BIT EARLY FOR YOU TO SLEEP?
THIS IS... HACHIJO TOHYA'S PLACE OF COURSE.
YOU CAME HERE BECAUSE THERE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SOMETHING OF GREAT IMPOR-TANCE.
WHA...

THE AUTHOR HAS ARRIVED.
WHAT IS THIS?
THIS IS NOT THE WITCH'S WORLD.
THIS IS THE 'HUMAN' WORLD, ..?
HACHIJO TOHYA...
NO NEED TO BE AFRAID.
NO NEED TO DOUBT, FEATHERINE AND HACHIJO TOHYA ARE THE SAME BEING.
IN HER WORDS, THE SCENERY BACKDROP JUST CHANGED A LITTLE...
SHALL I CALL YOU MISS HACHIJO THEN?


NO NEED TO WORRY.
NAMES ARE A COM-PLICATED THING.
SO WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME?
FORGERY WRITER
HACHIJO TOHYA
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THAT YOU AND I ARE HERE NOW, BUT YOU MUST NOT GET CONFUSED WITH MY NAMES.


DO YOU ...
RECOG-NIZE THIS?



THAT LOCK LOOKS DAMN STURDY.
.....
...DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE IT, LADY?
THAT THING YOU ALWAYS CARRY AROUND...
MARIA ONEE-CHAN'S SPELLBOOK.
HERE.
TAKE IT.
TAKE A LOOK AT THE BACK
... THE BACK ?

Eva Ushiromiya
Eva...
...Ushiro...
USHIRO-MIYA...
EVA USHIROMIYA ...?

NO WAY...
THIS IS EVA OBA-SAN'S ....
DIARY...?

SO IT REALLY IS THE FABLED ...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT AMA-KUSA?
JUST RUMORS, OKAY?
I HEARD FROM A FELLOW GUARD HOW PRESIDENT EVA HAS A DIARY.
SHE ALWAYS KEEPS IT LOCKED AND CARRIES IT AROUND, NEVER LETTING IT LEAVE HER SIDE.
WHY IS THIS DIARY HERE THEN?!
IT WAS FOUND IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM WHERE USHIROMIYA EVA DREW HER LAST BREATH.
APPARENTLY IT WAS FOUND BEHIND HER BED IN THAT ROOM, SHORTLY AFTER SHE HAD DIED.
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT A VALUE ON A DIARY LEFT BY USHIROMIYA EVA, THE ONE CONSIDERED TO BE THE CULPRIT OF THE ROKKENJIMA MYSTERY.
THE PERSON FINDING IT WAS ABLE TO GET A FITTING PRICE AND HANDED IT OVER TO THE WITCH HUNTERS IN SECRET.

AND MAKING IT'S ROUNDS IT FOUND IT'S WAY TO ME.
BEHIND THIS MYSTERIOUS LOCK...
TO MY GOOD FORTUNE, NOBODY HAD DESTROYED THE LOCK ON IT SO FAR.
EVERYBODY WAS DRUNK ON THE FACT THAT THE TRUTH OF THAT DAY IS SLEEPING IN HERE.
USHIROMIYA NATSUHI SEALED HER DIARY BECAUSE SHE WROTE HER EVERYDAY DISCONTENT AND DEPRESSING THOGHTS IN THERE.
IT IS ALREADY KNOWN THAT IT WAS A CERTAIN KIND OF RITUAL FOR HER.
...AND EVA OBA-SAN DID THE SAME THING...?
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE ...
EVEN WITH A KEY UNLOCKING THAT IS A HASSLE, EVEN THE OWNER WOULDN'T WANT TO DO IT ALL THE TIME, RIGHT?!

IT'S LIKE AMAKUSA SAID.
THIS DIARY ISN'T ONE THAT YOU JUST EASILY OPEN TO RELIVE SOME PARTS OF THE PAST.
IT'S A DIARY TO WRITE DOWN TO FORGET AND THEN SEAL IT AWAY.
...THERE IS NO OTHER WAY.
BUT ...
... SO THIS DIARY CONTAINS ...
EVA OBA-SAN'S MEMORIES OF WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY WRITTEN DOWN... YOU SAY.
I DO NOT KNOW OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE KEY TO THIS LOCK.
IF YOU READ IT YOU WILL KNOW.
.....

THE KEY...!
I HAVE IT HE...
.....
...WHA
IT'S... GONE.
THE KEY...
WHAT IS IT, LADY?
A KEY?
I HAD IT ON MY NECK ALL THE TIME!!
I DON'T REMEMBER THERE BEING ANY KEY.
I SEE ...
THE ME IN THE HUMAN WORLD DOESN'T HAVE THE KEY

ONLY THE ME IN THE WITCHES' WORLD HAS IT...!
RETURN ME TO WHERE I HAVE THE KEY.
I WILL OPEN THIS DIARY.

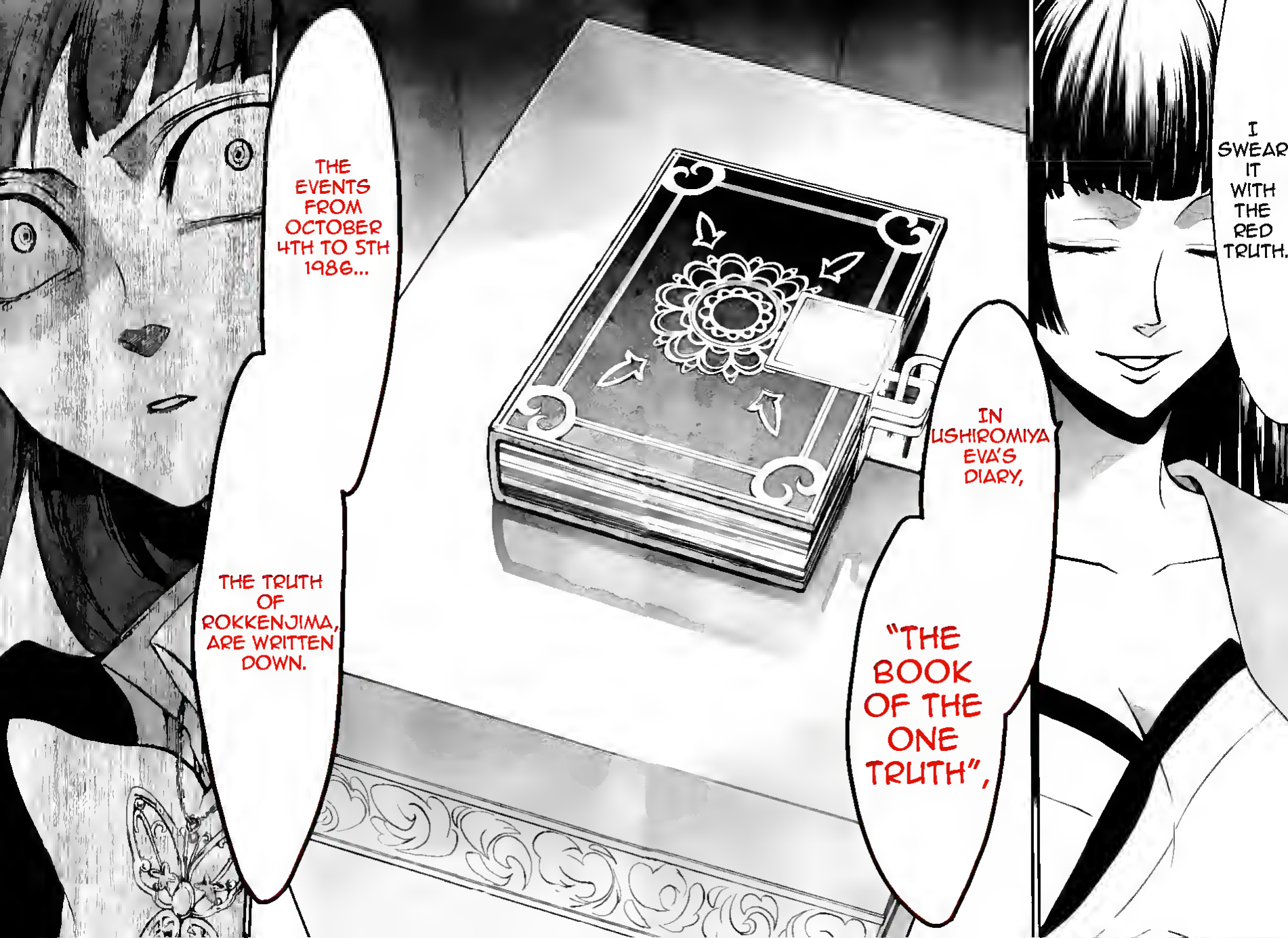
.....!?
THERE IT IS...
THE KEY...!
WHA...
MORE THAN JUST BEING A KEYHOLE GIVEN TO YOU...
THE DIARY EXISTS SOME-WHERE ON THIS GAME-BOARD.
I HAD IT ON MY LAP...
THE... DIARY IS GONE?!
IT MUST EXIST SOMEWHERE ON THIS GAMEBOARD.

IN OTHER WORDS ...
HE MIGHT HAVE ALREADY GIVEN YOU A GLIMPSE OF IT.
WHERE ...?
WHERE DID MY BROTHER HIDE IT...?!
EVEN THOUGH IT IS BATTLER'S PRECIOUS KING...
IT IS NOT HIDDEN IN THE CLOSEST SENSE.
HE CANNOT MAKE THIS GAME WITHOUT IT ON THE BOARD.
IT'S LIKE THE VICIOUS TRAP ALREADY SPELLED OUT IN THE FINE-PRINT OF A CONTRACT OFFERED BY A SWINDLER.
IF BATTLER IS FOLLOWING THE LAWS OF MYSTERY WRITING AS A GM ...
"THE HINTS ARE DEFINITELY PRESENTED"
"THE CHOICE THAT IS BATTLER'S DEFEAT IS DEFINITELY PRESENTED"

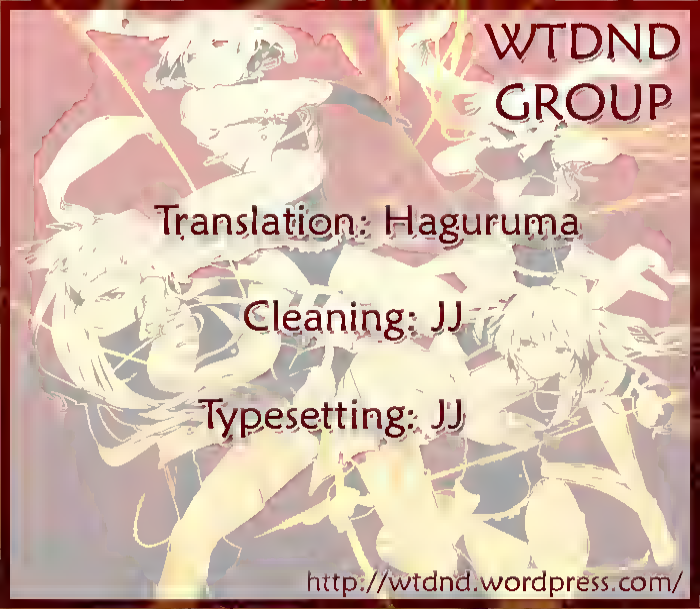
YOU MUST HAVE SEEN EVA'S DIARY IN BATTLER'S GAME BEFORE.
REMEMBER NOW, ANGE.
!!
ONIICHAN. CAN THIS KEY OPEN THAT BOOK?

THAT BOOK
IS FORBIDDEN

IT WAS...
YES.
"THE BOOK OF THE ONE TRUTH"?
AND IT HAS THE ACTUAL TRUTH IN IT?!
THE DIARY OF USHIROMIYA EVA HOLDS THAT DAY'S TRUTH WRITTEN DOWN.
THAT BOOK IN THE CHAPEL WAS EVA OBA-SAN'S DIARY...!
"THE BOOK OF THE ONE TRUTH"
COULDN'T IT JUST BE THE RAMBLING OF EVA OBA-SAN THA...


THE EVENTS FROM OCTOBER 4TH TO 5TH 1986...
THE TRUTH OF ROKKENJIMA, ARE WRITTEN DOWN.
IN USHIROMIYA EVA'S DIARY,
"THE BOOK OF THE ONE TRUTH",
I SWEAR IT WITH THE RED TRUTH.

Episode8: *Twilight of the golden witch*


WTDND
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Translation: Haguruma
Cleaning: JJ
Typesetting: JJ
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